

Montgomery County Family Justice Center



Mission of the FJC

- To promote safety, well-being, and healing for victims of family violence.

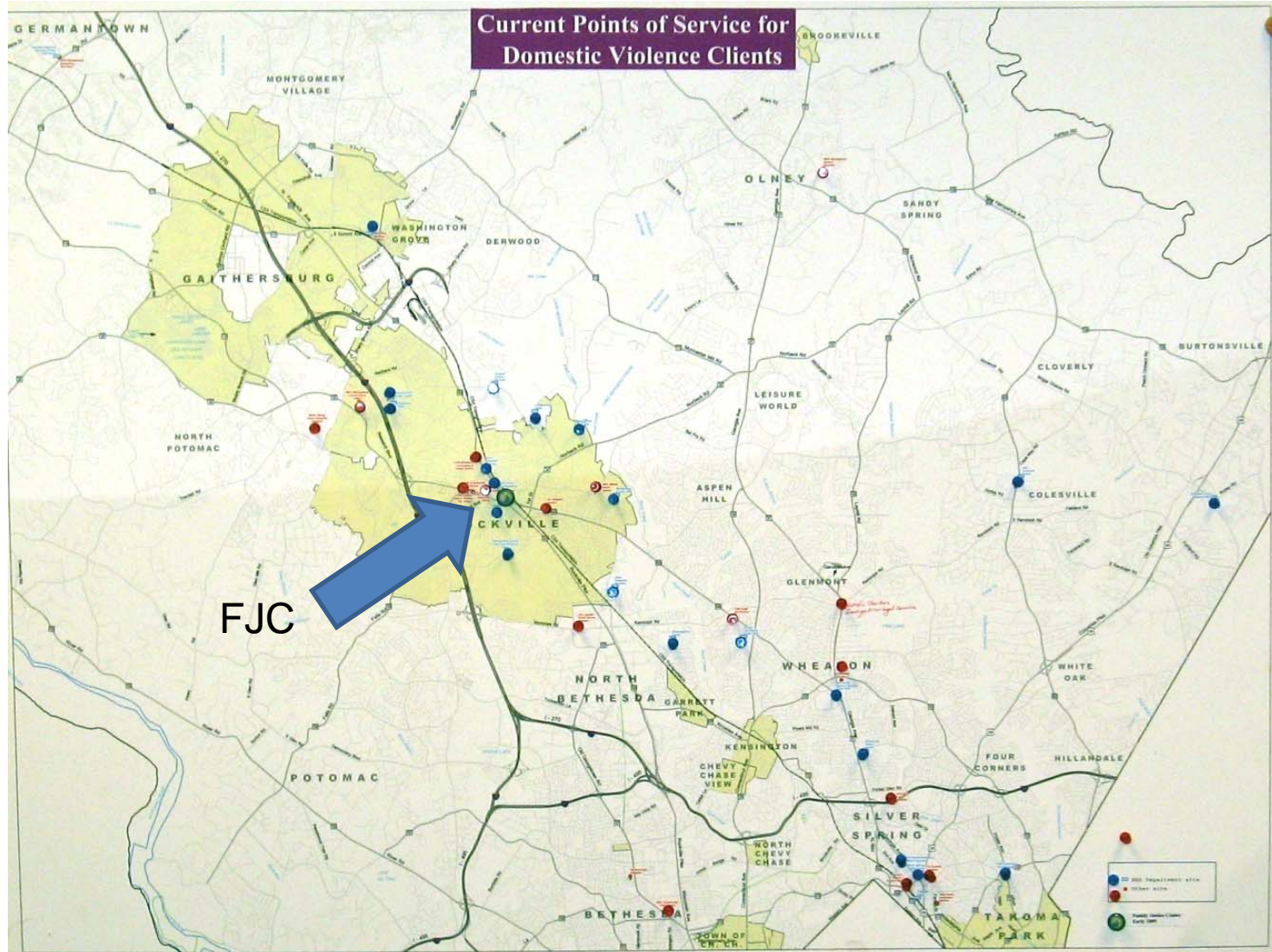
What is an FJC?

- Community-wide collaboration of public and private agencies
- “One-stop-shop” approach to domestic violence
- Reduces further victimization by eliminating need to walk, drive, or take public transportation to multiple places
- Proven to reduce domestic violence and domestic violence related deaths

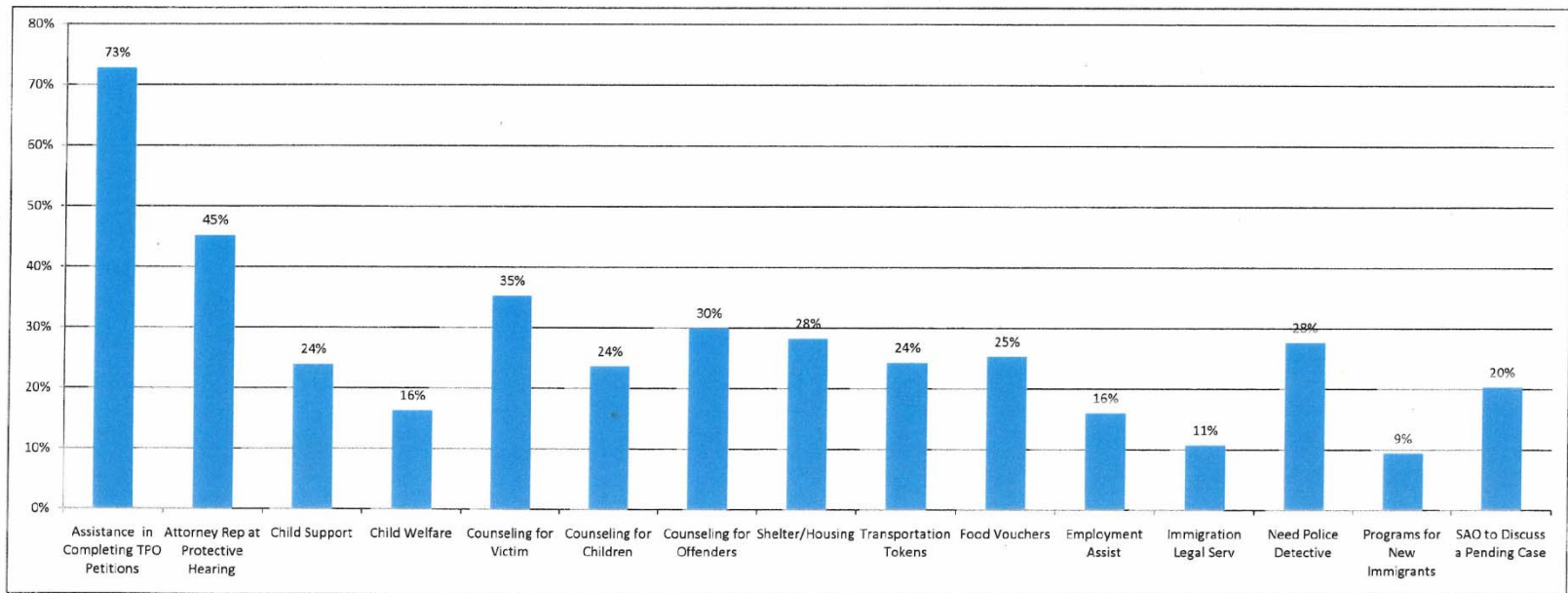
Compelling Reasons for a Family Justice Center

- In FY 2008, 75 domestic violence related deaths in MD
- 6 domestic violence related deaths in Montgomery County including 3 children
- Best-practice as recognized by law enforcement and medical and mental health communities
- Currently services are spread over the entire County

42 Locations where Montgomery County victims go for services



Services Requested by Victims Filing Protective Orders*



* The survey was conducted by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office with over 300 victims who had just received Temporary Protective or Peace Orders. The services listed above are currently provided in 42 separate locations across the County. Currently, victims are given as many as 17 sheets of paper with referrals to places where they can go to receive services. Phase 1 of the Family Justice Center will be the first step in co-locating many of these services for families in Montgomery County.

600 Jefferson Street

5th Floor

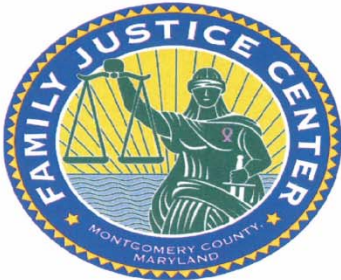


FJC Space

- Montgomery County is lessee
- 12 year lease for 24,000 square feet
- Free public parking
- Security by the Sheriff's Office
- Opened on April 27, 2009

Montgomery County Family Justice Center

600 Jefferson Street
Rockville, Maryland 20852



Client/Victim Areas:

- Client Interview Rooms
- Client & Children Waiting Areas and Restrooms
- Reception Areas
- Conference Rooms, Kitchens & Break Areas

Partners Areas:

- HHS, Police, Private Partners & Volunteer Areas
- State's Attorney
- Sheriff's Office
- Staff Restrooms

Goals of the FJC

- Help victims of DV and their families live safe, violence free lives
 - Promote the FJC as an environment for families to work with professionals dedicated to victim safety
 - Remove barriers for victims seeking safety
 - Increase the number of families seeking services by providing a victim and child friendly environment which reduces the stress of proceeding through the court system

Goals of the FJC

- Break the intergenerational cycle of violence in families
 - Provide services to address the needs of children exposed to domestic violence or those who have experienced violence at the hands of the batterer

Typically, government in the past gave little thought about furnishings. Below is the interview room that was designed by law enforcement.













Meadow Room



Reception Area Mosaic





The Healing Power of Touch...

















Intake Desk



Services

- Needs assessment – including safety planning
- Initial Protective Order Services – eventual video conferencing with courts
- Legal Services
- Counseling Services
- Emergency Services
- Child Support Enforcement
- Investigative Services
- On-site child care while parent receives services
- Video Conferencing for Protective orders soon

On-site Partners

- State's Attorney's Office Family Violence Division
 - Felony and misdemeanor DV
 - Physical and Sexual Child Abuse
 - Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Neglect
- Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Section
 - Safety plans
 - Temporary Protective Orders
- Abused Persons Program
 - Safety planning
 - Counseling
 - Court assistance
- House of Ruth Counseling

On-site Partners

- House of Ruth
 - Legal assistance with protective orders
- Catholic Charities
 - Legal assistance with immigration issues
- Chesapeake Counseling Associates for Safe Start
 - Counseling for children exposed to domestic violence
- Health and Human Services
 - Emergency services such as food vouchers, bus vouchers, shelter assistance, etc.
 - Assistance with filing for more permanent services

Off-site Partners

- Montgomery County Police Department
 - Investigation
- The Tree House – Montgomery County Child Assessment Center
 - Medical and mental health services for children exposed to both physical and sexual abuse
- Child Welfare Services
 - Assistance with available services

Off-site Partners

- Humane Society – Safe Havens Program
- Office of Community Partnerships
- Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence
- Office of Child Support Enforcement
- Women Who Care Ministries
- Manna Food
- Art Seen

Clients Served

- As of November 2009, over 850 clients served, many returning for additional services
- Clients represent 100 different countries of birth
- Approximately 1/3 are from Latin America
- Client surveys overwhelmingly indicate excellent service. Over 90% rated the service excellent. Over 95% rated the services very good or excellent.

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Additional information

- Montgomery County FJC
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/FJC
- Montgomery County FJC Foundation
– <http://www.mcfjcfoundation.org/>